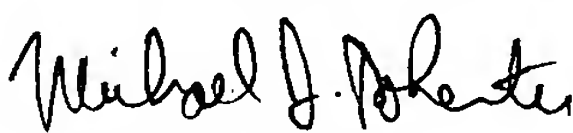
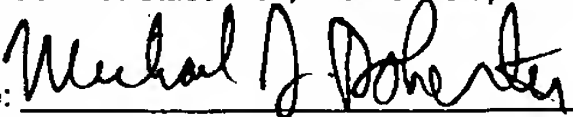




AAA IPW

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER				After Final Rejection	
Application No. 10/648,464		Filing Date August 25, 2003		Examiner J. G. Blanco	
				Group Art Unit 3738	
Applicant(s): James D. Ralph, Stephen Tatar, and Joseph P. Errico				Docket No. SPINE 3.0-446 CIP III CONT	
Invention: INTERVERTEBRAL SPACER DEVICE HAVING A SLOTTED PARTIAL CIRCULAR DOMED ARCH STRIP SPRING					
TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS					
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.					
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.					
CLAIMS AS AMENDED					
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid	Number Extra Claims Present	Rate	
Total Claims	11	- 20 =		x	
Independent Claims	3	- 3 =		x	
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					
Other fee (please specify):					
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT:					0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large Entity <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for this amendment.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. <u>12-1095</u> as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayment.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17.					
 Michael J. Doherty Attorney Reg. No. 40,592				Dated: June 20, 2006	
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG, KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP 600 South Avenue West Westfield, New Jersey 07090 (908) 518-6337					
I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.					
Dated: June 20, 2006		Signature:  (Michael J. Doherty)			



I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: June 20, 2006

Signature: Michael J. Doherty

(Michael J. Doherty)

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Group Art Unit: 3738

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-446 CIP III CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Ralph et al.

Application No.: 10/648,464

Filed: August 25, 2003

For: INTERVERTEBRAL SPACER DEVICE
HAVING A SLOTTED PARTIAL
CIRCULAR DOMED ARCH STRIP SPRING

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: Group Art Unit: 3738
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: Examiner: J. G. Blanco
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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 28, 2006, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: